

## ARIZONA HISTORICAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

### Application for Arizona Centennial 2012 Legacy Project Designation

**AHAC Mission:** Develop, encourage and coordinate a statewide plan for Arizona's centennial in 2012 including advising the legislature and state agencies on centennial history and heritage, arts and culture, assisting the governor's countdown to the centennial to support school children learning about Arizona's history and recommending activities and projects that will ensure lasting accomplishments to commemorate the centennial.

**Vision for Centennial Projects:** Commemorations that encourage all Arizonans to reflect on our unique and authentic history, to experience the rich and diverse tapestry of our heritage, and to explore our promising futures, thus ensuring a lasting legacy.

**Legacy Project Criteria:** This is a request for official designation as an Arizona Centennial Legacy Project. To be considered, the project must 1) accurately portray a significant aspect of Arizona history; 2) be accessible to large number of visitors/users; 3) demonstrate collaboration in the planning; 4) produce an enduring product that will live on after 2012; 5) include an educational component; 6) include a plan for implementation.

Attach a maximum of three pages that address the following areas, in the order listed:

1. General description of the project.
  2. Describe how this project meets the Legacy Project criteria.
  3. Project timeline. Give details regarding planning and implementation.
  4. Describe the project location.
  5. List project partners, if applicable.
  6. Attach a proposed budget, showing total project cost and funding sources.
  7. Please also provide letters of support from project partners and sponsors.
- These are in addition to the three-page maximum.

Name of project: Enhancing Arizona Military Museum

Applicant: Arizona National Guard Historical Society

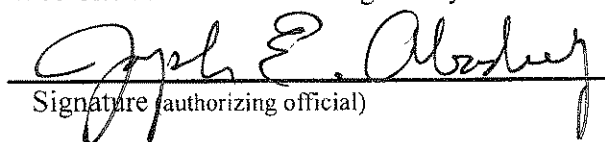
Contact person: Colonel Joseph E. Abodeely (Ret)

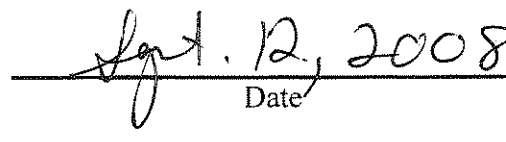
Address: 9014 North Wealth Road Maricopa, Arizona 85239

Telephone Number: 602-253-2378 or 602-509-8762 or 520-868-6777

Email address: joeabo@qwestoffice.net

Web Site address: [www.az.ngb.army.mil/Museum/museum.htm](http://www.az.ngb.army.mil/Museum/museum.htm)

  
Signature (authorizing official)

  
Date

The Arizona Historical Advisory Commission will review the Committee's recommendations and make final decisions regarding Legacy Project designations. Submit application to:

Arizona Historical Advisory Committee  
1700 W Washington, Suite 200  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

## APPLICATION FOR LEGACY PROJECT DESIGNATION

**General description of the project.** The project involves enhancing the Arizona Military Museum by devising and making portable display cases for exhibits for presentation at sites away from the museum and preserving and presentation of selected archival materials relating to the extensive and colorful military history of Arizona.

**Describe how this project meets the Legacy Project criteria.**

(1) The Arizona National Guard Historical Society, inc. was incorporated as a non-profit corporation in 1975 with the stated purposes:

“To enhance the appreciation of the military history of Arizona and the contributions of the Militia of Arizona and the Arizona National Guard to the State of Arizona and to the Nation...” (Bylaws, Article I, Section 1). To accomplish its purposes, the Historical Society shall strive: “...to discover and memorialize the history of the Military of Arizona, the Arizona National Guard, and the general military history of Arizona, and to establish and maintain a **museum** on land leased, owned, or otherwise controlled by the Society.” (*Id.*). The policy statement states that the Historical Society is “...to portray events, persons, and other historical information relating to...the military service of Arizonans in wars and other military actions in Arizona and around the world”. (*Emphasis added*).

In December 1980, the Adjutant designated the **museum** an official permanent historical activity of the Arizona National Guard. In April 1981, the General Staff dedicated the space for the East Room of the **museum**. On September 12, 1981, the **Arizona Military Museum** had its grand opening. Arizona has a rich and colorful military history ranging from the explorations of the Conquistadors through the 1<sup>st</sup> Arizona Volunteer Infantry during the Indian Wars through the Spanish-American War, through the Border Campaign against Poncho Villa through World Wars I and II where the 158 Regimental Combat Team (“Bushmasters”) distinguished themselves through Korea through Viet Nam through Operation Desert Storm to the Arizona National Guard’s involvement in the Global War on Terrorism. The Arizona Military Museum portrays significant aspects of Arizona military history with uniforms, weapons, photos, accoutrements, and other artifacts.

(2) The Arizona Military Museum has been accessible to the public since 1981 on Saturdays and Sundays from 1:00pm to 4:00pm and has provided special tours during weekdays for schools and other groups by appointment because the docents for the museum are all volunteer unpaid Board of Director members of the museum. The museum has had and presently has some of its artifacts on loan and on display at other museums in the state. The museum is housed in an old adobe building built in 1936-37 by the WPA on the Papago Military Reservation at 52<sup>nd</sup> Street and McDowell Road. The museum is temporarily closed as of this application due to cracked beams in the roof which the National Guard (which owns the building) is in the process of repairing.

(3) The National Guard and the Arizona National Guard Historical Society, which sponsors the Arizona Military Museum, have a Memorandum of Understanding

whereby the Historical Society runs the museum and the Guard supports the museum. The Arizona Military Museum is certified by the Arizona Historical Society and the Center for Military History and is an official Army Museum Activity under the Army and National Guard regulations.

(4) Evidence that the “product” will endure after 2012 is that it has already been in existence since 1981. There are over 150 members of the Historical Society, and as the museum becomes better known as a result of the Centennial, its support will increase. Hopefully, there will always be public appreciation and recognition for those who served their country.

(5) The museum is implicitly educational. The uniformed mannequins, the artifacts, and the contextual information about the displays and related events entertain, excite, inform, and educate the public. During tours, the docents also provide educational information. In the past, the museum worked with the Arizona Humanities Council by providing presentations from their list of speakers, and we plan on reinstituting that program as an educational aspect of the museum. The Arizona Military Museum is a repository of the history of the Arizona militia and the Arizona National Guard. It has the original muster rolls of the 1<sup>st</sup> Volunteer Infantry Regiment in Arizona, Adjutants General reports, numerous and various books (some of collector’s value) and other documents of historical interest. It has photographs of Pancho Villa, Geronimo, General Pershing, the Adjutants General of Arizona, the Medal of Honor recipients, various companies of the Bushmasters, etc. which must be preserved.

(6) In short, the museums plan for implementation consists of doing what it has been doing for almost three decades. Displays will be altered to further emphasize the military history of Arizona. Mannequins will be replaced, repaired, or added as necessary to enhance displays. We are constructing display cases which allow the museum to project its visibility away from the museum as we are enclosed in a military reservation which detracts from our visibility and unrestricted access by the public. An advantage to our location is the security of our highly sensitive artifacts (*e.g.*, weapons and historical artifacts).

**Project timeline. Give details regarding planning and implementation.** The first, and foremost, task is getting the museum roof repaired. That is under the control of the National Guard, but the Adjutant General has assured us that he supports the museum and it will be repaired as soon as practicable. We have already started designing portable display cases and their construction will begin in about two weeks. We have priced mannequins and some building materials. We have also priced archival restoration of unique photos (the long photos which were common around the early 1900s). We plan on having display cases constructed in 120 days, mannequins purchased within 120 days, and the preservation of rare photos and other documents will be ongoing beginning within 90 days.

**Describe the project location.** The project is located where the museum is located—5636 East McDowell Road within the confines of the Papago Military Reservation. The museum, itself, is a historic building. It is probably the second largest all-adobe building (next to San Xavier Mission) still in continuous use.

**List project partners, if applicable.** The Arizona Military Museum is operated and controlled by the Arizona National Guard Historical Society, Inc., a private non-profit, I.R.C. § 501(C)(3) educational corporation. Membership is over 150 members regular and life members. The Center of Military History provides the museum with federal weapons and vehicles on loan, and the CMH and the Arizona Historical Society certify the Arizona Military Museum as an official museum. The museum also participates with the Arizona State Library & Archives Memory Project. Probably, our most important partner is the Arizona National Guard which provides our site and other support such as maintenance and transportation.

**Attach a proposed budget showing total project cost and funding sources.**

**Budget:**

| <u>Item</u>  | <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Cost</u>   | <u>Sub Total</u>   |
|--|-----------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Mannequins (assorted)                              | 15              | @\$450.00ea   | \$ 6,750.00        |
| Display case construction materials                |                 |               | \$ 2,000.00        |
| Signage materials for contextual materials         |                 |               | \$ 500.00          |
| Reproduction of archival                           |                 |               |                    |
| photos and documents                               | 20              | @\$500.00ea   | \$10,000.00        |
| Museum professional development workshops/seminars |                 |               | \$ 1,500.00        |
|  |                 | <b>Total:</b> | <b>\$20,750.00</b> |

**Funding:** The museum does not charge admission. It has a very small gift shop, but its primary source of funding comes from membership dues and contributions.

**Attached are letters/documents of support from project partners and sponsors.**

Arizona Historical Society certification

Center of Military History listing in U.S. Army Historical Directory

Photos of museum displays

Letter from Major General David P. Rataczak, Arizona Adjutant General

Letter from Marshall Trimble, Official Arizona State Historian

Letter from Jim Turner, Community Outreach Historian, Arizona Historical Society

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph E. Abodeely, Colonel, USA (Ret)

President, AZ National Guard Historical Society

Director, Arizona Military Museum